

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

[0022] In one embodiment of the present invention, a supplier, such as supplier 107, may wish to receive the results of the statistical analysis applied by market analyzer 130. In such a case, the supplier's request for the results can be received by communications server 115 and then be forwarded to request manager 135. In response to the request, request manager 135 can gather the results from database 140 and return the results to the supplier via communications server 115. In addition to requesting the results of a statistical analysis, a supplier may wish to request a summary of the transaction data. For example, a supplier might request a summary of all the transactions that occurred between certain dates. Request ~~manager~~ manager 135 could receive the request for the summary of the transaction data, retrieve the transaction data from database 140, summarize the transaction data and forward the summary to the supplier. To protect the identity of parties involved in transactions, request manager 135 can be configured to return only a summary of the requested transactions and not detailed information about the participants in the transactions.

[0025] FIGURE 2 is a diagrammatic representation of another embodiment of a market analysis system 110 according to the present invention. Market analysis system 110 can include a communications sever 115, a task manager 120, configuration manager 125, a market analyzer 130, and a request manager 135. Communications server 115 can facilitate the communication of data between market analysis system 110 and external systems, such as electronic exchange 105 and the computer systems of suppliers. Communications server 115 can include (i) an input interface 202 having a configuration interface 206, a transaction interface 208 and a request interface 210 and (ii) an output interface 204. Configuration information can be received via configuration interface 206 and, as discussed in greater detail below, this configuration information can be used by configuration ~~manager~~ manager 125 to define how market analyzer 130 acts upon the data in database 140. Additionally, transaction data can be received via transaction interface 208 and requests for information, such as a request for the results of a statistical analysis, can be received via request interface 210. Responses to a request by a supplier can be communicated to a supplier via output interface 204.

[0028] Along with standard pricing group manager 212, configuration ~~manager manger~~ 125 can include model manager 214 and a supplier manager 216. Model manager 214 can define the type of statistical analysis that market analyzer 130 will apply to a standard pricing group. For example, if market analyzer 130 can apply four different time series statistical analysis models to a standard pricing group, model manager 214 can determine which time series model should be applied. Additionally, model manager 214 can define starting values and default parameters to be applied during the statistical analysis performed by market analyzer 130. Supplier ~~manager manger~~ 216 can manage information regarding suppliers that participate in electronic exchange 105 and can facilitate the comparison a particular supplier's transactions with the transactions of other suppliers or with the market as a whole. Furthermore, supplier manager 216 can ensure that the correct information is communicated to the correct supplier. Thus, if a particular supplier requests information regarding how that supplier is performing versus the overall market, supplier manager 216 can ensure that the transactions of the correct supplier are compared to the remainder of the transactions in a standard pricing group and that the comparison is returned to the proper supplier.